4/14/70

Dear Ron,

I have accomplished a few impossibilities that, under other circumstances would be helpful to a book.

James Earl Ray has replaced one of his counsel with my nominee. This was less difficult to arrange than I'd anticipated. It also required less time. Almost as incredible, Stoner has accepted him, knowing he is my friend and, indeed, my lawyer in a suit against the government.

Ray has a copy of COUP II, without chapter 18 and appendix. It was hand delivered, uncensored. He has read it and has asked my permission to use it in his own defense, in an appeal. I do not hear from him directly, which would require censored letters, so I am not certain of the nature of this proceeding. I presume it is or is similar to a habeas corpus. He apparently likes the work, or at least major parts of it, and is not turned off by its characterizations and opinions.

I have responded that he may use parts of it under stipulated conditions and am awaiting the opportunity of getting this letter delivered to him by hand. The participation of my lawyer and his approval of what is done at the hearing and my advance knowledge and agreement to what will be used are among the conditions.

I didn't bother you with the suit I filed against Mitchell, Kleindienst, Rolapp & Co. because there seems to be no interest. When they failed to respond within a reasonable time we filed for a summary judgement, which forced them. They asked my lawyer for an extension (after all, they've only been stalling me for a year) and he declined it. This will force them to do something soon, in court at least.

This suit is airtight, can be defeated only by corruption, which is not impossible, and should be a serious blow against those who today represent the worst racism/fascism. And it should attract some attention to the reality of the King murder.

Aside from personal considerations, and I think I can make the separation, it will be tragic that the book will not be available.

I've approached everyone I can think of to try and arrange a private printing.

With no manifestation of any interest in the Featherstone/Brown case, I've content myself with making notes and collecting what is possible. I think I can break that right now, with no more then I have and can do.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg